Dear Gary,

12/30/77

The postscript to your 12/27 says you got a letter from my Calif. friends who you met through Hal Verb and that you'll write them about China. From this I take it you mean the Whites, so I rush to let you know that Jenifer died in October. Jim seems to be taking it as well as possible, better than I'd expected because of their closeness over so long a period. However, you might want to merely address him and say nothing about Jenifer.

Except for something Mary and others decribe as major, Paul one of these others, and for the certainty of his thievery, there is nothing about which Lifton could write that would interest me. He is bugs- nuts. Bright, alas, and very sick. If his book ever comes out nothing remains for him, I fear. If he had any kind of book at all I think the past two years presented the best market period since the earliest days. I have heard of his having been in New York and having seen publishers there on a number of occasions in recent years. But maybe this time it will be. I leave the reaction of his mind and his sickness to your skills in that field.

Howard is an unimaginable joy and not only because I believe I was able to help and guide him in his more formative years. Mostly because he is so magnificent a human being. Were he my son I'd feel no more warmth.

You say that Policoff and others are saying "negative things" about the House committee. Not a bit too soon, is it? I'm the perpetual optimist but I learned a hard lesson about separating hope from reality with Garrison. My attitude toward these assassins has not changed. The only difference is that I began by giving them a very real chance. One of the few good ones there ran some risk to phone me after they got in trouble and to say Man I never heard anything laid out as straight and as totally accurate in advance in my life. I predicted what would happen to them, even how it would happen, and outlined the only way of circumventing it. I then let them have precious material of signifiaance, not gibberish about hut theories. I gace them the entire corpus delecti in the King case and affered it with JFK. I broke off only after repeated ethical transgressions. I did not expect better because my analysis told me not to. It was totally correct. But I felt not only that I had to given them a chance - I also had to have the record I do have because of the Lanes of this world and field. Not the CIA, as Lane loves to day but I am the source of the telling Times and Post stories exposing them. However, they have some internal, staff pressures. So they may issue a report. I fear that the pressures may be along nut lines.

I was gentle with Krueth. It was silly to transcribe abything Bud said. I hope he can get back to earth. He seems like a good person.

Little else new. You'll have gathered the medical news from the enclosed letter to Jim. Another wonderful one. Richly endowed, like Howard, and like Howard willing to learn. He's still too much of a flower boy, though, for a lawyer in tough cases. His briefing is the best. Great stuff.

I'll be writing a Paul you do not know, not Hoch. Some of it may interest you.

hope you have a good year ahead, personally and for your clinic.

Best,